

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 05417 301614Z

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

RSC-01 USIA-15 IO-10 L-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

BIB-01 NIC-01 /076 W

----- 017474

R 301324Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1052

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 5417

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM'S PRESS INTERVIEW
WITH KEN OWEN

REFERENCE: STATE 279211

1. UNDER HEADLINE QTE MULDER GIVEN ORAL ANSWER UNQTE, JOHANNESBURG
STAR OF DECEMBER 28 CARRIED FOLLOWING TEXT BYLINED QTE THE STAR
BUREAU UNQTE AND NOT BY KEN OWEN.

2. TEXT READS QTE

WASHINGTON - DR. CONNIE MULDER, THE SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER OF
INFORMATION, APPEARS TO HAVE RECEIVED A VERBAL REPLY TO HIS LETTER
TO PRESIDENT FORD.

IT SEEMS IT WAS DELIVERED, IRONICALLY, BY THE HEAD OF THE
STATE DEPARTMENT'S AFRICAN BUREAU WHICH THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
WAS TRYING TO OUTFLANK.

THIS EMERGED IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICA, MR. DONALD EASUM, WHO REFUSED
TO DENY REPORTS THAT HE HAD VERBALLY REPLIED TO THE LETTER

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 05417 301614Z

WHEN HE SAW DR. MULDER DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. EASUM'S HINT OF WHAT HAPPENED CAME DURING THIS EXCHANGE:

QUESTIONER: DID YOU DELIVER AN ORAL REPLY OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
TO DR. MULDER OF THAT LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT ?

MR. EASUM: I CAN'T CONFIRM THAT THERE WAS SUCH AN EXCHANGE.

QUESTIONER: I HAVE SEEN THE LETTER.

MR. EASUM: YOU HAVE ?

QUESTIONER: YES.

MR. EASUM: THERE WILL BE NO WRITTEN REPLY.

QUESTIONER: DID YOU DELIVER AN ORAL ONE WHEN YOU SAW DR.

MULDER ?

MR EASUM: WHY DON'T YOU ASK DR. MULDER ?

MR. EASUM FLATLY DENIED A NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND ITS CONDUCT OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH SOUTH
AFRICA, WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE RECENTLY BY THE SECRETARY FOR
INFORMATION, DR. ESCHEL RHOODIE.

HE DENIED DR. RHOODIE'S SUGGESTION THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN
AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, MR FRIKKIE BOTHA, OPERATES UNDER
RESTRICTIONS THAT PREVENT HIM FROM MEETING SOME CLASSES OF
AMERICANS.

ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCES, DR. MULDER'S LETTER SOUGHT TO
WARN PRESIDENT FORD THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS TRYING TO REACH
AN AGREEMENT WITH FRELIMO GOVERNMENT IN MOZAMBIQUE FOR THE USE
OF NACALA, THE NATURAL HARBOUR, AS A NAVAL BASE.

MR. EASUM SAID: 'BASED ON MY RECENT, ALBEIT BRIEF, VISIT TO
MOZAMBIQUE ... THE ONLY THING THAT DISTURBS ME IS THE ECONOMIC
CHALLENGE TO THE FRELIMO GOVERNMENT ... WHICH, I BELIEVE, WILL
REQUIRE COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION ON THE PART OF THE FRIENDS
OF MOZAMBIQUE' UNQTE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PRETOR05417
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740377-0399
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974124/aaaaadgz.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 STATE 279211
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 OCT 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <27 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM'S PRESS INTERVIEW WITH KEN OWEN
TAGS: PFOR, SF, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005